



Welcome to the Internet Tutorial #3

What is the Internet?

The Internet is a **network of computer networks** around the entire globe. In layperson's terms this means that any single computer can give and receive information from any other "connected" computer. This is done by using TCP/IP protocols. (TCP/IP protocols are simply the set of rules or modus operandi that computers use to communicate with one another over the Internet).

What is the World Wide Web?

The World Wide Web (also known as WWW, W(3), or "the web") is a collection of electronic documents (pages), images, files, programs, etc. that are accessible on the Internet through the use of a "Internet Browser."

What can I do on the Internet?

USING ELECTRONIC MAIL (e-MAIL)

E-mail is the transmission and exchange of messages over the Internet from one computer to another, much like one would write and mail a letter (but faster!). (ex. Hotmail)

JOINING CHAT ROOMS & INSTANT MESSENGER SERVICES

Chat rooms are places in Web sites or other online services where people are able to type "instant" messages to one another. The typed messages are displayed almost immediately and the recipient is able to respond at once, much like one would speak on the phone. Some rooms offer private communication between two people, while other contain large groups of people posting messages together (ex. Windows Live Messenger).

VIDEO CONFERENCING

Using analog video and satellite links as well as physical equipment such as a video cameras, microphones and speakers, video conferencing is a "live" conference between two or more people wherein the participants are able to see and hear one another (ex. Skype).

PARTICIPATING IN FORUMS

called "web boards" forums are online discussion groups where visitors or members can post and reply to messages. Many forums have specific topics that are discussed and participants often avoid "chatty" topics seen more regularly in chat rooms. Examples can be Nature Forums to Political Issues. Messages in forums tend to be permanently accessible, stored on message boards for others read at any given time.

CONDUCTING RESEARCH

Using a browser and various search engines, anyone can access literally hundreds of thousands of Web Sites full of information on every topic imaginable. Using different yellow pages, on-line phone books and even reverse look-up directories, you can find almost anyone. Many businesses have websites

listing their contact and address information. You can find organizations in need of financial support or volunteers, employees looking for workers and more!

JOINING A SOCIAL NETWORKING SITE

These are websites that allow people to meet and network with others worldwide. These websites usually allow users the opportunity to send messages to other users, upload photos, send invitations, and answer polls/quizzes. Essentially, it is used to keep up with your friends and associates. Many companies are beginning to use this tool to understand more what consumers want (ex. Facebook & MySpace).

DESIGN A WEBSITE

Online tutorials are on the WWW teaching anyone how to design their own website. Register with one of several servers and set up your own free website!

PLAY GAMES & HAVE FUN

Play interactive or card games alone or with others online. Do crosswords; learn a language; write your own blog; you name it!

BUY ONLINE

Use the benefits of e-commerce and buy your goods online! (ex. UsedOttawa, eBay, Amazon)